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Agenda item 134

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendation made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 134 appears in the report of the Committee contained in document A/57/657.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 52nd, 53rd and 56th meetings, on 19 and 20 May and 4 June 2003. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.52, 53 and 56).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the performance of the budget of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 (A/57/680);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/57/681);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 and budget for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/57/723);

(d) Related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/57/772 and Add.3).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.82

4. At the 56th meeting, on 4 June, the representative of Venezuela, coordinator of the informal consultations on the item, introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone" (A/C.5/57/L.82).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.82 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 1270 (1999) of 22 October 1999 concerning the establishment of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council revised and extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1470 (2003) of 28 March 2003,

Recalling its resolution 53/29 of 20 November 1998 on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone and subsequent resolutions on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, the latest of which was resolution 57/291 of 20 December 2002,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone and the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone as at 31 March 2003, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 170 million United States dollars, representing some 9 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only twenty-seven Member States have paid

[1] A/57/680, A/57/681 and A/57/723.
[2] A/57/772 and Add.3.

their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone in full;

3. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

4. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Mission;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

11. *Expresses concern* at the persistent delays in the recruitment and placement of personnel, and requests the Secretary-General to take immediate measures to redress the situation and to report thereon at its fifty-eighth session;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002

12. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002;[4]

13. *Decides* to reduce the appropriation authorized for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 under the terms of General Assembly resolution 56/251 A of 24 December 2001 from 717,603,059 dollars to 676,603,059

[3] A/57/772/Add.3.
[4] A/57/680.

dollars, the amount apportioned among Member States in respect of the same period;

14. *Decides also* to approve the decrease in the estimated staff assessment income for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 from 8,317,778 dollars to 7,989,378 dollars;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004

15. *Decides further* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone the amount of 543,489,900 dollars for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, inclusive of 520,053,600 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 17,946,000 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 5,490,300 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base;

Financing of the appropriation

16. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 509,436,300 dollars at a monthly rate of 42,453,025 dollars, in accordance with the levels set out in General Assembly resolution 55/235, as adjusted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 55/236 of 23 December 2000 and 57/290 of 20 December 2002, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2003, as set out in its resolutions 55/5 B of 23 December 2000 and 57/4 B of 20 December 2002, and for the year 2004,[5] subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

17. *Decides also* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 10,167,800 dollars at a monthly rate of 847,317 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 5,800,000 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 4,043,200 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 324,600 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

18. *Decides further* that for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share of the remaining unencumbered balance and of other income in the total amount of 56,560,600 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002, in accordance with the levels set out in General Assembly resolution 55/235, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 55/236 and 57/290, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2002, as set out in its resolutions 55/5 B and 57/4 B;

19. *Decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the remaining unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 56,560,600 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 18 above;

[5] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

20. *Decides also* that the decrease of 510,300 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002 shall be set off against the credits from the amount referred to in paragraphs 18 and 19 above, and that the respective shares of Member States therein shall be applied in accordance with the provisions of those paragraphs as appropriate;

21. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

22. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Mission;

23. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone".